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LC/NAIROBI

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

(Paper submitted to the sixth Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information on the status of resources, recent activities and use of resources and provide an indication of resource requirements for technical co-operation activities aimed at promoting individual and collective self-reliance among member States.

2. In this connection, it is necessary to point out, at the outset, that ECA activities fall into three general categories, if classified by source of resources. First, there are the general activities of the secretariat which are financed from Section 13 of the regular budget of the United Nations as appropriated by the General Assembly. These activities consist of decision-making and what are generally called "substantive" activities and include organization of legislative meetings, and of seminars and training workshops, collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the social and economic sectors, general research into development questions, and the preparation of reports and technical publications.

3. The second group of activities consists of advisory services to member States, on request, and these are financed from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation, Section 24 of the regular budget of the United Nations, also appropriated by the General Assembly.

4. The third group of activities overlaps with those of the first and second categories and has a greater emphasis on promoting technical co-operation between technical assistance institutions and other donors and member States and are directed at the implementation of specific projects. Such projects are generally referred to as "operational projects" and the activities connected with them - operational activities. These activities include establishment and management of development institutions; organization and servicing of workshops, seminars and study tours for member States' officials, the award of scholarships; and provision of equipment. Such activities are financed entirely from extrabudgetary resources negotiated between the secretariat and the different donors. The sources for such funds are funding agencies of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), etc., other Trust Funds such as the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD), and other multilateral and bilateral donors.

II. ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)

5. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development was established in 1977 as a channel for member States of the Commission to make voluntary contributions to the formulation and implementation of activities geared to the promotion of collective self-reliance in the region. As shown in table Annex 1 to the document entitled Progress report on the utilization of pledges for 1985 and

1986 (E/ECA/CM.13/42), the pledges by member States in 1981 for the biennium 1982-1983 were very low compared to contributions in 1979 for the biennium 1980-1981. It will be recalled that, that was a period of the severe economic crisis in Africa. Thus with the increasing deterioration of economic conditions, and the resultant limitation of African countries to contribute effectively to UNTFAD, the General Assembly in 1982, in its resolution 37/139, invited donor countries "to provide substantial and sustained levels of resources for promoting the accelerated development of African countries and the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, and to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development". Similarly, international financial institutions were called upon to continue to consider actively increasing substantially their development assistance to Africa during the Decade.

6. In response to the call of the General Assembly, the fourth UNTFAD Pledging Conference in April 1983 witnessed an upsurge of interest and support for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in recognition of the important role played by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In addition to the African countries themselves, the following non-African countries - Argentina, Austria, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Italy and Turkey - also made pledges to UNTFAD. Unfortunately, the 1985 pledging Conference did not receive the same support as that of the fourth one. However, with the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development in 1986 in which the international community has pledged to assist African countries more in their efforts to develop, such renewed commitment could be further demonstrated through pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in addition to what would be made available to member States under bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

III. THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL CRISIS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECA PROGRAMME OF WORK AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

7. The financial crisis under the regular budget of the United Nations has severely affected the implementation of the 1986-1987 work programme and the situation has even been worse for technical co-operation activities. Over the recent past, the volume of resources for technical co-operation activities has tended to dwindle most rapidly and has seriously affected the implementation of technical co-operation activities as is clear from the following table.

8. Over the next two years, the secretariat will increase its involvement in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER), in which the priorities for the period 1987-1991 are specified. The programme of work and priorities to be financed from the regular budget are directed towards the implementation of the objectives of UN-PAAERD and APPER. However, the regular budget resources have been declining, and will continue to decline. The level of available regular budget resources during 1988-1989 is likely to be lower than that for 1986-1987.

Resources for implementation of technical co-operation activities from 1978-1979 to 1986-1987
(Thousand of US dollars)

	1978-1979	1980-1981	1982-1983	1984-1985	1986-1987
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	8 138.0	11 257.0	15 167.1	6 411.3	5 540.9
United Nations Trust Fund for African Development* (UNTFAD)	3 481.0	1 815.1	1 036.9	351.3	500.0
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	441.0			20.0	40.0
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	1 676.0	6 171.8	5 416.2	6 071.8	7 021.0
Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women	80.0	955.6	187.4	46.0	60.0
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	-	-	-	188.6	-
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	580.0	861.0	482.0	-	-
World Health Organization (WHO)	-	-	-	-	11.0
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	173.0	22.3	-	-	-
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	-	-	150.0	-	-
Bilateral sources	1 499.0	3 944.2	2 065.0	2 592.4	4 847.9
Non-governmental organizations	-	336.7	-	-	-
Total	16 068.0	25,363.7	24 504.6	15 681.4	18 020.8

Source: Paper presented to the Meeting of Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commission, Bangkok, February 1987, on review and appraisal of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

*/ Value of projects implemented on basis of collections from pledges.

9. In fact, apart from the zero growth for regular budget resources for 1986-1987, a 15 per cent reduction of those resources is bound to be effected over the period 1987-1989 in accordance with the recommendation of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations and the approval of the General Assembly. Thus, the programme of work and priorities for 1988-1989 biennium reflects the reduction of resources at a time when implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER calls for increased efforts and resources.

10. The role that African Governments and their development partners have to play is therefore quite clear. This is more so after examination of the trend in the growth of UNTFAD resources in the period 1978-1979 to 1984-1985. Besides, total resources for technical co-operation projects have declined over the last three bienniums 1980-1981, 1982-1983, and 1984-1985; and those have also been the years of the growing African crisis. Expectations for 1988-1989, shown below provide a very cautious indication of resource availability under technical co-operation activities.

	Thousands of US dollars
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	10 386.2
United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)	706.2
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	100.0
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	5 977.8
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	10.0
Bilateral sources	1 055.4
Total	18 235.6

In the period 1982-1983 and 1984-1985, resources for technical co-operation activities amounted to $US 25.4 million and $US 15.7 million respectively, with UNTFAD's share being barely $US 1 million and $US 0.4 million respectively.

IV. UNTFAD AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE AFRICAN PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

11. A number of priority areas, requiring priority action have been identified in the UN-PAAERD and APPER. The main objectives and priority concerns of member States, as identified in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and APPER should provide a guide in the making of pledges. The list in paragraph 12 below gives an idea about activities that would require financing so as to implement more technical co-operation activities within the UN-PAAERD and APPER priorities.

12. The means, or instruments for attaining the goals and objectives of UN-PAAERD and APPER include some of the following:

(a) Development of skills:

(i) Organization of training seminars, workshops and study tours;

(ii) Provision of fellowships through the expanded ECA training and fellowships programme;

(iii) The exchange of technical personnel with expertise as required by member States;

(iv) Promotion of co-operation through joint research activities;

(b) Support to self-reliance and integration projects:

(i) Support of the operational activities of the five Multinational Operation and Programming Centres (e.g. the Tangiers-, Niamey-, Yaounde-, Gisenyi- and Lusaka-based MULPOCs);

(ii) Direct support to and promotion of projects aimed at integration of women in development;

(c) Specific studies in areas identified as requiring more detailed knowledge in any of the sectors and priority areas identified in UN-PAAERD and APPER so as to produce technical publications, manuals, and guidelines for the use of the officials in member States;

(d) Prefeasibility and feasibility studies, also in areas identified in UN-PAAERD.

The above-mentioned instruments could be applied in each of the priority sectors so as to attain the objectives of UN-PAAERD and APPER and increased contributions to UNTFAD will assist greatly in developing and applying them.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER is only partly addressed in the regular budget programme of work and priorities for 1988-1989. The continuing decline of regular budget resources has reduced the implementation capacity of the regular budget. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development has no choice, therefore, but to assume a leading role in the mobilization of resources for technical co-operation projects in the pursuit of the objectives of UN-PAAERD and APPER. States members of the Economic Commission for Africa, of the United Nations and other donor countries, multilateral and bilateral funding agencies are therefore urged to pledge generously, in the spirit of international co-operation for the pursuit of the objectives of UN-PAAERD and APPER.